

## Earthquake Causes Much Destruction.

Catania, Sicily, May 9.—A great earthquake last night brought death and destruction to many villages near Mount Aetna. The number of dead up to tonight was officially placed at 173, with about 350 injured. A large part of the devastated territory has not been inspected.

The affected zone extends from Zaffarana, the highest village on Mount Aetna, to the sea between Aci Reale on the south and Giarre on the north. It includes Linera, the centre of the disturbance, Pisano and Santa Verena. In Linera alone 110 persons were killed and 300 injured. In Bongiardo 13 dead and 27 injured have been taken from the ruins. At Consolini 16 were killed and many injured. At Passo Palmo two persons were killed; at Malati, 12; at Santa Veneri, six; Santa Tecla, two; Santa Maria Virginia, eight; Arbuti, four.

The villages and many smaller places were leveled.

The entire district today presented a spectacle of desolation, ruin and death. Many of the injured had not been taken from the debris. All train service has been abandoned, owing to the collapse of bridges, broken tracks and obstructed tunnels.

For centuries this section has suffered from earthquakes, owing to the activity of Mount Aetna. Yet it is thickly populated, as the land is fertile, vineyards growing with little attention.

At the central point of the disturbance dozens of bodies were lying on the roads, many so badly crushed as to be unrecognizable. The injured lay in the open, awaiting assistance.

Where Linera stood is a mass of ruins. Those houses which did not collapse entirely were so broken as to emphasize the completeness of the disaster. The village consisted of about 800 inhabitants.

Most of the people escaped because the shock occurred when the men and some of the women were working in the fields. From the vineyards they saw their houses falling and when they arrived, breathless, at their homes they found only wreckage, with some of their people buried beneath it. This accounts for the fact that most of the victims at Linera were women and children.

Gens. Trabucchi and Moccagatta are in command of the work of rescue, which is being taken up vigorously by soldiers, firemen, policemen, and Red Cross volunteers. It is expected, however, that weeks will pass before the full extent of the disaster can be ascertained, as it is believed many peasants are buried underneath their homes in the isolated country districts.

At Catania the strongest shock lasted seven seconds. Electric lights were extinguished and the street railways were all put out of service. People rushed from the houses, shops and cafes. Many jumped into boats and others crowded into the squares. At the hospitals patients ran to the courtyards imploring help.

## Place of Meeting Changed

The meeting that was to be held at Pine Grove on Saturday, May 30th, will be held at Chesterfield instead, in connection with the Union meeting.

All churches asked to send a full delegation. C. H. Rivers, T. W. Eddins, B. S. Funderburg, committee.

## How's Your Health?

Progressive Farmer

There are few things so splendid as perfect health—the kind that makes you get out of bed in the morning with a bound, an appetite for breakfast, and the feeling that nothing in the world is impossible of accomplishment. And it is true that by the healthy man or woman—health in body and mind—almost all things may be done, and done well.

We are beginning to see, too, that human morals are largely a matter of human health, mental and physical. Given good digestion a sound liver, and the clear eye and cheek that go with them, and we most often have a good citizen—an optimistic, wholesome, lovable sort of man. Given the reverse—the man filled with malaria, or possibly hookworms, whose liver is chronically out of gear—and we have a sour, crabbed individual who, having no good in himself, cannot possibly see any in others.

All this is by way of clearing the decks for our main statement, namely, that health conditions in the county are not what they should be. This is clearly shown by the vital statistics that are collected every year for both country and city. In the prevalence of the three diseases that are very largely preventable, typhoid, malaria, and hookworms, the country possesses the unhappy distinction of being far in advance of the town. This is an unpleasant truth, we know, but it is the truth just the same.

Now, this is a sad state of affairs. For ever intended that the open country should be a less healthful place to live than the man-made town, and that it is so indicates that something is radically wrong. From the unhealthy, unwholesome conditions of a few years ago the towns and cities, by rigid sanitary laws, are decreasing the death rate from the preventable diseases named. This great work has been accomplished largely by a careful attention to sewage disposal, a pure water supply, and the elimination, in a large measure of those two disease and death-carrying insects—flies and mosquitoes.

It is well to swat the fly and mosquito, but it is better never to give them a chance to get in swatting distance of the farm home. These pests are as dangerous as rattlesnakes—more so, even, because of their immense capacity for multiplication. But like all other enemies of human progress, they are finally to be driven from the earth. In so far as our immediate surroundings are concerned, let's exterminate them this year—now—insuring, in large measure, at the same time ours and our loved ones' physical well-being.

## Still Captured in Anson

Wadesboro Ansonian

The officers found another still in this county Friday night, on the lands of Lige Harris, colored, in Lilesville township, some three miles northeast of Lilesville. It was a copper still and showed the effect of long and constant use. The officers had to wait sometime before the operators arrived and were unable to capture them on account of the rough country in which the still was located. Another moonshine outfit was found in the swamps of Brown creek a few weeks ago. This was a crude affair, being made of two wash tubs soldered together.

## Grow Plenty of Hay

In the rush of getting the cotton and tobacco crops in, it is important that we not forget what should be a crop of first importance on all South farms—the hay crop. Nature has given us such a splendid climate and such a monopoly in cotton production that we have signally failed to avail ourselves of our excellent opportunities along lines other than cotton growing.

Just a few weeks ago we had an account of what Mr. Nixon's farming showed, and it will be remembered that of all the crops grown the hay crop paid best. We believe that on the average cotton or tobacco farm anywhere in the South, similar results will be obtained.

The Progressive Farmer has consistently and persistently held to the idea that cotton should be made strictly a surplus cash crop—a crop, in other words, the proceeds of which will about represent the net cash income from the farm operations. This, of course, will never be true so long as we use Western grain and hay to the enormous extent that we now do.

We have every natural advantage for making of the South a great hay and forage section. Where the soil is suited five or six crops of alfalfa may be harvested; crimson clover and oats planted in the fall come off in ample time for another crop to follow; lespedeza sown on oats in March makes one of the finest of hays without any further attention; and cowpeas and soybeans after oats may be sown as late as July and make excellent hay before frost.

It is well to make a good cotton crop; but it is better still to keep the proceeds of it at home. A legume hay crop planted now or later, will help materially in this direction, and will aid in making rich lands at the same time.—Progressive Farmer.

## Trains May Run Into Seaboard Depot.

Mr. C. L. Hunly, of Chesterfield board of trade, has received the following letter relative to the running of the C. & L. passenger trains into the Seaboard yards at Cheraw:

"Your communication of May 5th has been received and considered by the Commission."

"I assure you the Commission is anxious to do all it can to relieve the condition at Cheraw. We realize there is a great inconvenience to the traveling public by reason of the fact that the C. & L. Ry. trains do not run into the S. A. L. Ry. depot at that point. On the other hand both the General Manager of the C. & L. and the President of the S. A. L. Ry. are very insistent that the running of the C. & L. trains into the S. A. L. depot will involve a great deal of expense as well as hazard, but as I stated at the outset, we are anxious to adjust this matter properly and satisfactorily, and at a date to be named as soon as previous engagements already made by the Commission will permit, the Commission will visit Cheraw and make a thorough investigation of the situation on the ground, and notify you and such others as may desire to be present at that time. Hoping this is satisfactory,

Yours very truly,  
John G. Richard Jr.  
Chairman.

"What is the name of this dangerous microbe that is transmitted by kissing?" asked Mrs. Gab, as she laid down the newspaper. "Marriage," grunted Mr. Gab.

## A Cheerful Liar.

Lamberton Robesonian

John Smith, a young white man from Abbottsburg, blew into town Friday afternoon and proceeded to do a few people. He claimed to be deaf and dumb and afflicted with rheumatism. He had a pencil and tablet and on the first page of that tablet he had penned "I am deaf and dumb. I was born that way. Won't you help me? Your God will bless you." After presenting his card to a number of people he went into the Dixie cafe and while eating supper forgot his business and talked a word or two—forgot his game—and there happened to be some folks in town who knew him and they hid him away to Chief Redfern and told him that they knew Smith and that he could both hear and talk. When Chief Redfern approached him Smith drew his pad and pencil and began to write, acting as though he had never heard the voice of a man.

When on his way to jail Smith owned up and told Chief Redfern that he had been caught just as he expected. He was placed in jail and Saturday morning he was given a hearing before Recorder Rowland and sent to the road for 3 days. He said on the stand that he was the biggest liar that he knew of, and that he was born a liar and that it seemed impossible for him not to tell a few occasionally. He said that he formerly worked in a store at Bladenboro. He said that he was under the impression that he was not real bright and when asked why he thought that he replied that he was judging from what folks had been telling him. He said that his father and mother were both living near Abbottsburg and that he had rather go to the road than to notify his father of his proceedings, also that he wished to go to the roads and see if it wouldn't make somebody of him.

"Now, Tommy," reprimanded his mother, "don't let me catch you throwing and more stones." "Well, what will I do when the other fellers throw 'em?" asked Tommy.

"Just come and tell me," his mother replied.

"Tell you!" he exclaimed in astonishment. "Why you couldn't hit the broad side of a barn!"—Ex

## Willing To Help.

The Monroe Enquirer has the following to say about the good people of Lanes Creek township:

When it comes to lending a helping hand the people of Lanes Creek township allow none to surpass them. They allow no man to suffer down in that good township, if kind attention and helpfulness in hour of need can prevent it. Mr. H. L. Autry, of Lanes Creek township has been sick and unable to prepare his land and plant his crop. Last Thursday a large number of Mr. Autry's neighbors went to his house and before sunset they had put him up with his work and left his fields in fine condition. Mr. Raymond Presley, a neighbor of Mr. Autry, had been sick, too, and last Saturday his good neighbors and friends took a large number of horses and plows to his fields and did his planting. Lanes Creek is all right, but that's not news, for good folks have been living down there ever since the Indians left.

## Mexican Meditation Will Begin On Time.

Washington, May 9.—The opening of the Mexican meditation conference at Niagara Falls on the scheduled date—May 18 was assured today when word was received of the Mexican delegates from Mexico City for the conference. Preparations for dispatching reinforcements to Gen. Funston at Vera Cruz, should such a movement become necessary, went forward steadily today, work on 12 transports to carry troops, horses and supplies being pushed, but no warlike development occurred. The military apparently is being held well in leash to avoid embarrassing the meditation negotiations.

A threatening cloud disappeared from the diplomatic horizon when the German steamer, Kronprinzessin Cecelie, reported to be carrying arms and ammunition for Huerta, returned to Vera Cruz, without debarking her war stores at Puerto Mexico and it was announced that the munitions on this and a second German steamer, the Bavaria, would be returned to Germany. The possibility either of a seizure or blockade of Puerto Mexico or of an act perhaps interpretable as a violation of the military status quo in favor of Huerta thereby was eliminated.

## Sharing Honors

Into a blind tiger in the North Carolina mountains stalked a tall and truculent-looking stranger. Halting in the middle of the floor, he addressed the assembled company in threatening tones:

"I can lick any man in this place!"

A man stepped forward instantly and accepted the challenge by knocking the challenger about fifteen feet. The Newcomer dropped on his back in a corner. As he endeavored to rise, the local champion bowled him over flat again. Three times this happened. This, lying on the floor, the newcomer spoke.

"Partner," he said, through his battered lips, "you and me both can lick any man in this place!"

## Program of The Baptist Union.

Program of the Chesterfield Baptist Union to be held with the Chesterfield church Friday and Saturday before the Fifth Sunday in May.

10—10:30—Devotional Services.

10:30—11—Organization.

11—12—Sermon by Rev. B. D. Thames, Subject, "The Meaning and Mission of a Christian Life."

12—1—Are we as christians doing our duty socially? Opened by J. Frank Funderburg. The Wisdom of cooperation in Evangelistic efforts, by Rev. J. B. Caston.

Friday Evening 8 p. m.

"Enlistment campaign." Discussion by Rev. W. J. Langston and W. E. Wilkins.

Saturday.

10—10:45—Prayer and praise services, conducted by Bro. Kirby Rivers.

10:45—12:30—Enlistment campaign, by Rev. W. J. Langston and W. E. Wilkins and others.

Some of the following subjects will be discussed:

The Motive for Missions.

The Sunday School and Missions.

The Home Mission Task.

The Every member Canvass.

C. H. Rivers.  
T. W. Eddins.  
B. S. Funderburg.  
Committee.

## Swallowed his Gum

On Monday night when a crowd of merry-making young people were gathered at the home of Mr. W. McCall, the official designation of the meeting being a tacky party, a novel joke formed in the fertile brain of Mr. Harry Redfearn, who, like the others, was dressed in a manner appropriate for the occasion.

It so happens that Mr. T. W. Gregory lives not far away from this scene of merriment, and being a quite and peaceful citizen he retired on this particular evening, as is his custom, before the wee small hours, and he was far away in dreamland when his telephone rudely interrupted his peaceful slumbers by long-draw-out ringing. When he finally managed to grope his way to the annoying instrument, he heard a pathetic story indeed. The voice announced that there had been an accident in the lower part of town and that the owner of the voice, with others, was in need of a conveyance to help them into town. It said that they were from McBee and that their mule was blind and in his blindness had run over the Baptist church, and thereby destroyed the vehicle they had come in. The voice pleaded with the sleepy citizen to hitch up and help them.

By this time Mr. Gregory was awake fairly well, and he began to take notice of passing events. He roused his brother and instructed him to call over to the McColl home and ask for help, saying that Watt had gone to the barn to hitch up and aid the wanderers from McBee and had been kicked by his horse. Mr. Redfearn was first to start to the rescue and with him went young Ed Redfearn and Dagnall Cato. Imagine the remorse of conscience Mr. Redfearn must have felt, to think that his message of distress over the 'phone had really caused a fearful accident. Full tilt they went, and just as they reached the house Mr. Gregory, who was sitting in his night clothes in a shaded part of the porch and bubbling over with laughter, discharged his Winchester into space, and those who heard it say it was like a young cannon. He says Harry dropped and folded up like a collapsible chicken coop, and Harry doesn't deny swallowing all the gum in his mouth, which is variously estimated at from five to thirty cents worth. Gregory says he thinks there would have been a funeral if he had shot again. The boys are all able to be up and about, and Gregory is still laughing.

## Notice.

The Books of Registration for Chesterfield County will be open at the Court House until 30 days before the General Election.

S. B. Timmons,  
E. T. White,  
T. M. Belk,  
Co. Registration Board

## Card of Thanks.

As it will be impossible for me to see and thank each one personally, we take this method to thank our friends for service rendered, kindness shown, and words of cheer during the illness and death of our daughter. We can never forget you, and pray God's richest blessing on each of you. And any time we can reciprocate we will be glad to do so.

Your friend  
Mrs. Mary A. Sowell.